Page 1,   after line 3, insert as a separate paragraph:

B2

--2.   Description of Related Art--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B3

--It is known to apply automation to processes. For instance, the Integrated Supply Chain Management project (ISCM) by the University of Toronto focuses on the management of business processes as they are executed. For more information on this project, see website www.eil.utoronto.ca/iscm-descr.html.--

Page 1,   after line 11, insert as a separate paragraph:

B4

--**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B5

--References below to "ASOPE" are references to embodiments of the present invention. "ASOPE" is an acronym for "Aspect Oriented Process Engineering" and is the name used for the principle underlying embodiments of the present invention.--

Page 1,   after line 18, insert as a separate paragraph:

B6

--**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**--.

Page 2,   after line 13, insert as a separate paragraph:

B7

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B8

--ASOPE decomposes processes into two elements, Generic Process Patterns (GPPs) which are the fundamental sequences of steps which are used to achieve a goal, and Process Aspects which contain context specific process steps together with instructions for their composition with a particular GPP. In this way it is possible to use ASOPE to synthesise wholly new processes that achieve a goal but, with respect to one another, utilise extra or alternative process steps for example to achieve unrelated sub-goals or prevent the system from reaching a particular state. An example of a GPP would be a plan to install customer premises equipment. Process Aspect examples would be access checks for premises related to an individual, or checking that the site could support physical diversity for a corporate working in the finance industry. GPPs are decontextualised, generalised plans and Process Aspects provide context, resource and participant dependent exceptions and extensions.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 1 in its entirety and substitute in its place the following paragraph:

B9

--What is claimed is:--.